

# Florida

Hunting Season Regulations  
Retire — and Fish!

Fishing • Hunting  
• Conservation •  
Outdoor Recreation

# WILDLIFE

JUNE 1965

*The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen*

25 CENTS



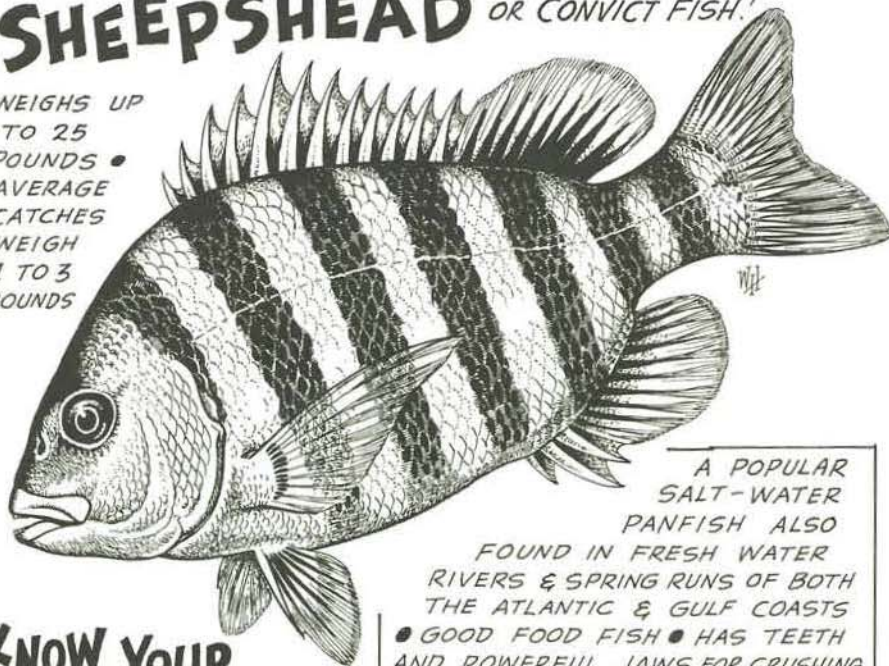
Wallace  
1965



# FLORIDA

## SHEEPSHEAD OR CONVICT FISH!

WEIGHS UP  
TO 25  
POUNDS •  
AVERAGE  
CATCHES  
WEIGH  
1 TO 3  
POUNDS



### KNOW YOUR FLORIDA FISHES

SALT WATER FISHES  
FOUND IN  
FRESH WATER

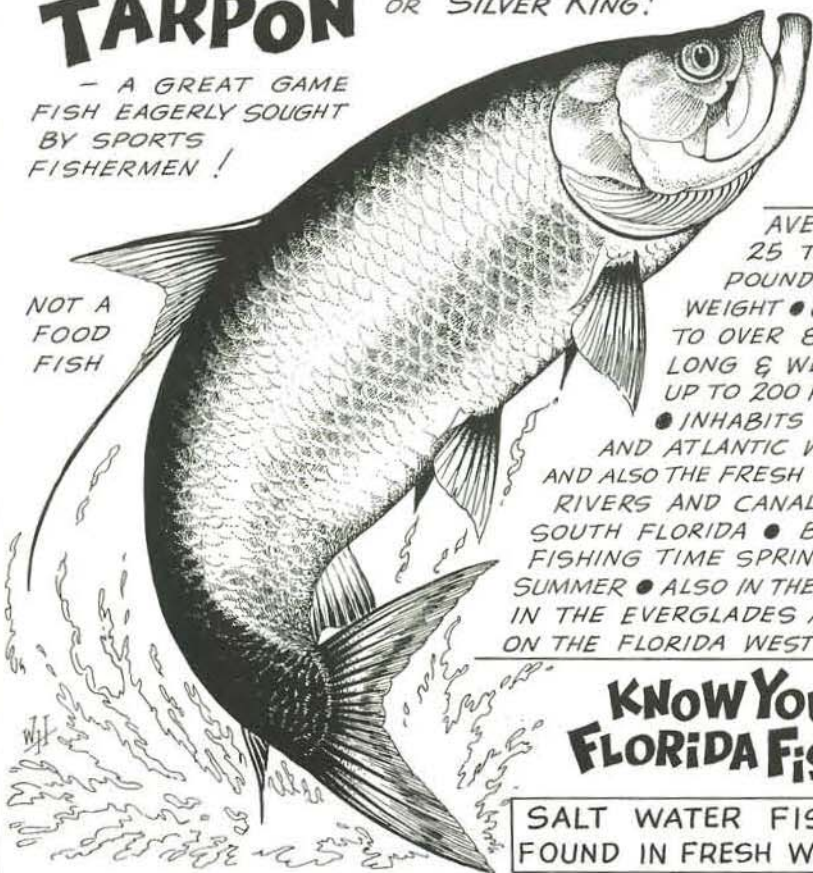
A POPULAR  
SALT-WATER  
PANFISH ALSO  
FOUND IN FRESH WATER  
RIVERS & SPRING RUNS OF BOTH  
THE ATLANTIC & GULF COASTS  
• GOOD FOOD FISH • HAS TEETH  
AND POWERFUL JAWS FOR CRUSHING  
AND EATING BARNACLES, SMALL  
SHELLFISH AND FIDDLER CRABS  
AND OTHER CRUSTACEANS • USUALLY  
CAUGHT ON HOOK & LINE EQUIPPED  
WITH WIRE LEADER & USING FIDDLER  
OR HERMIT CRABS FOR BAIT

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

## TARPON OR SILVER KING!

- A GREAT GAME  
FISH EAGERLY SOUGHT  
BY SPORTS  
FISHERMEN!

NOT A  
FOOD  
FISH



AVERAGES  
25 TO 50  
POUNDS IN  
WEIGHT • GROWS  
TO OVER 8 FEET  
LONG & WEIGHS  
UP TO 200 POUNDS  
• INHABITS GULF  
AND ATLANTIC WATERS  
AND ALSO THE FRESH WATER  
RIVERS AND CANALS OF  
SOUTH FLORIDA • BEST  
FISHING TIME SPRING AND  
SUMMER • ALSO IN THE FALL  
IN THE EVERGLADES AND  
ON THE FLORIDA WEST COAST

### KNOW YOUR FLORIDA FISHES

SALT WATER FISHES  
FOUND IN FRESH WATER

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

# WILDLIFE SCRAPBOOK



VOLUME 19 NO. 1

# Florida WILDLIFE

JUNE 1965

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★  
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Conservation, Restoration, and Protection of our Game and Fish

★  
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WALLACE HUGHES, Art Director

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Federal Communications Bldg.  
New Smyrna Beach

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Northwest Region

JOHN T. BROWN, Regional Manager  
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Box 576—Phone SU 5-5352  
Panama City, Florida

Northeast Region

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Lakeland, Florida

Everglades Region

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JUNE, 1965





# CONSERVATION SCENE

## Boating and Bottle Hunting in the Florida Keys

THE OWNER of a trailerboat thinking of a boating vacation in Florida has one great advantage over his non-boating, tourist brethren:

He can go "bottling."

This is a little-known hobby actively pursued by many residents (and a few visitors) of the Florida Keys. The hundreds of tiny islands that make up this paradise, set down in glittering, tropic seas, have been receiving the sea's discarded flotsam for centuries.

Bottles are common—and we don't mean just any old bottle, although these rather obviously are most common.

Patient searchers are rewarded with rare finds: Antique, hand-blown, crudely made, green glass rum bottles that may once have been held in a pirate's hands as he roared out a chorus or two of a sea chantey. Captain's decanters, of a special shape meant to stay firmly in place on the table aboard a rolling, sea-tossed, old-time sailing ship. Old, long-necked wine bottles; tiny, squared-off medicine bottles a century or more old; antique water bottles.

The islands are still full of them, and a whole industry has

sprung up around them. Many homes in the Keys display racks and shelves of ancient bottles dug out of sand and seaweed at the water's edge on some lonely beach.

The collections often assume considerable value. One woman was surprised to be offered a new Cadillac for her entire collection, patiently gathered over several years.

She refused.

The bottles often are beautifully colored by a century of exposure—in soft, pastel purple hues, pale greens, streaks of yellow, touches of lavender. Many are valuable antiques.

They can be found along almost (not all) any beach facing the ocean. Those reached by land have been picked over thoroughly; those reachable only by boat, however, still offer surprises for the patient bottle hunter—known in the Keys as a "bottler." The best are on the ocean side; but many tiny islands on the bay side of the Keys yield their share of prizes.

A few discreet questions asked locally may guide you to the better ones. Nearly all can be reached in ten or twenty minutes by outboard. A patient search may reward you with a rare prize.

Bottling can be an absorbing sport. And if you have a trailer-

boat, a rewarding one. You may take home a dozen rare finds.

Each one will be a living memory of an exciting day on a distant, tropic beach.

### Winter Waterfowl Survey

A SURVEY to determine habitat conditions and the distribution of ducks, geese, swans, and coot on major waterfowl wintering areas throughout North America was completed March 1, the Department of the Interior announced.

Observers from State game departments and Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife conducted the annual survey using airplanes, boats, and automobiles. As in previous years the Armed Services and Coast Guard were active cooperators, supplying planes and pilots where needed.

In the Pacific Flyway, which lies west of the Continental Divide, flood conditions in some areas coincided with severe winter conditions in others to cause a non-typical distribution of birds.

On the southern end of both the Atlantic Flyway, which includes States east of the Appalachian Mountains, and the Mississippi Flyway, which extends from the Appalachians to the Great

(Continued on page 34)

### THE COVER

The Chain Pickerel, a fresh water gamefish lost deep in the publicity shadows of Florida's famous largemouth bass, is commonly known throughout the state as Pike, or Jackfish. Although this scrapper will attain weights over six pounds, and length from two to three feet, its midget cousin, the Redfin Pickerel, lower right background, seldom grows more than 12 inches

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes



## Hunting Season

### Dates Announced

**F**LORIDA SPORTSMEN will find very few changes in hunting and fishing regulations, seasons, or bag limits. The 1965-66 hunting and fishing regulations and a general framework for the 1966-67 season were established by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission at the annual regulation meeting in Tallahassee, April 23, according to O. E. Frye, Executive Director.

The opening and closing dates for resident game birds and animals were established by the Commission in January. The season will open one-half hour before sunrise Saturday, November 13, in the First, Second, Fourth, and Fifth Regions. The season in the Third Region will begin one week later on November 20.

The Commission established one bag limit change. This change provides a season's bag limit of three deer, a one deer increase over last year's bag limit of two. The daily bag limit remains at one deer per day.

Other regulation changes provides for a training period for deer hounds from October 15 to November 1 in the First, Second, Fourth and Fifth Regions and from October 22 to November 8 in the Third Region. Dog training will not be allowed on wildlife management areas or on lands within the National Forests, and trainers may not be in possession of any firearm while training.

The Commission also removed the beaver from the list of protected fur-bearing animals and placed it in the category of unprotected or fur-bearer without closed season. ●

## MAN and BIRDS

By ERNEST SWIFT

National Wildlife Federation

**P**EOPLE OTHER THAN "bird watchers" could well peruse *THE WORLD OF BIRDS* by James Fisher and Roger Tory Peterson. It is more than a kaleidoscope of bright-colored and strange-looking birds, more than a listing of 8,580 species of birds that were known to be alive in 1962. It is more than a bird encyclopedia or dictionary.

This tome takes more than a casual reading to fully appreciate its significance, and today people need more subjects of study and less entertainment. Its collective impact suddenly becomes overwhelming when the years of research and devotion to an objective become apparent; and it leaves any neophyte, which most of us are, with a sense of naked humility.

It could well be called the history of creation, the Genesis of bird life, especially with the discovery of a fossil feather found in a limestone slab in Bavaria, whose formation dates back at least 140 million years.

Then comes the story of evolution, the probability of some reptilian ancestor that learned to briefly soar with wing-like appendages covered with scales. This all goes back to the era of the dinosaur, or before, with evidence accumulating from all parts of the world. In our own country the tar pits of California contributed many fossils, and one pit was carbonated at 14,500 years.

Through eons there developed many bird families and bird species, often with the larger and more ungainly becoming extinct and the smaller ones surviving. Since the dodo was exterminated in the late 1600's, at least 75 species have passed out of existence, mostly from man-made causes, and many more than that are now endangered for the same reason. And through the ages the slow pattern of evolution gradually developed inherent characteristics. Some birds could tolerate changes, others could not.

Since the dawn of history man has speculated on bird migrations, and where the myriad of feathered creatures disappeared during the winter months. Actually the scientific study of birds is not an old science, and much more has been learned in the twentieth century than prior. Ancients, and some not so ancient, believed that birds possibly hibernated, or went to the moon, or even burrowed in the mud.

Even with all the accumulating knowledge, bird migrations are still one of the most fascinating phenomena of nature. Billions of birds seasonally take to sky-ways, spring and fall. Some are in flocks, as those in the northern temperatures see the black birds in the fall; some drift more or less alone or in small groups. Some migrate strictly at night, others by day, and still others either by day or night. There is evidence that they are guided as nocturnal flyers by the stars and possibly by the moon. In fog and inclement weather they seem to lose direction.

The homing instincts of birds have also proved astonishing.

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# FISHING



By CHARLES WATERMAN

HAVING WRITTEN THIS column for some years now without winning any Pulitzer prizes and having turned out some pretty sorry ones without drawing a pink slip, I think I am entitled to a real clinker for my own amusement.

The title for this might be: "How One Sorehead Sees It" or "A Voice From the Past" or "Sour Grapes From a Lousy Fisherman."

My theme is the attitudes of outdoorsmen in general and fishermen in particular. I am aware that I read such wails 40 years ago from the pens of what I considered doddering old fuds who thought outboard motors were infernal machines and probably preferred muzzle-loading shotguns.

I'm not ranting about scattered beer cans or smug disregard for a bag limit or boats that make too much wake. I'm talking about the basic attitudes.

For one thing, nobody wants to learn to do anything. At fishing clinics I find the vast majority are seeking, not new skills but easier ways of collecting fish. News accounts of fishing; newspaper, radio or TV, stress numbers and size and generally don't even mention method. Most of the pictures shown look embarrassingly hoggish to me—but, as I say, I'm a voice from the past.

The fact there are exceptions to the *kill'em all* school makes vast arrays of dead fish look even sillier.

For example, a friend of mine sells high grade fishing tackle, mainly to fresh water fly fishermen. He was looking for a cover illustration for his catalog and I offered him one. It was what I thought to be a rather nice color picture of two big trout.

"I'm afraid to use it," he said. "Two big fish in one picture would look hoggish to some of my customers."

"But we put them back after we took the picture," I fumed. "They weren't hurt."

"Doesn't matter," he said. "The people who see my catalog don't know you put them back and they think no one should take home two big trout."

Well now, as the master of ceremonies says, how about that?

So what, snarls somebody, is so special about fresh water trout fly fishermen?

Nothing, Friend, nothing except that it's a skilled hobby, takes a lot of study and produces anglers

Indications are that anglers are becoming more interested in easy methods rather than the use of fishing skills

who get something out of it besides dead fish. We have bass, tarpon and snook fishermen of the same stamp. There are even a few souls who catch and release salt water trout just for fun.

Now chances are no legal catch of bream or bass is going to hurt the fishing but a big haul should be incidental to the fun of going fishing and trying to fool a fish. I notice that real anglers seldom stay very long with extremely easy fishing.

I don't object to a guy taking home a limit of bass but I object to his going out with that as his sole objective.

The scarcity of plug casters and the few users of fly tackle (despite repeated reports of "revivals" of these forms of fishing) isn't due to the poor fish-catching qualities of these methods but to the fact that they aren't automatic. You have to learn to use them.

The preference for trolling or stillfishing over casting is a result of ease with which they can be done. Virtual disappearance of the shoreline caster in most of Florida is a result of the fact that few fishermen can row and most don't even have oars.

I'm not much of a nature student myself but I certainly like to get into wild country, which I gather used to be a prime objective of fishermen and hunters of half a century ago. I believe now that most anglers would prefer to fish in stainless steel tanks in an air-conditioned pavilion if it could be arranged.

As the population increases it seems we want to cling to other people, even strangers, in all our activities. The completely appointed public campground gets the play these days and very few "campers" actually take to the forests or undeveloped beaches.

There's some kind of off-beat competition afoot in every form of fishing, too. This is pretty weird when you are dealing with folks who are too lazy to learn to tie a blood knot or drag a thumb on a casting reel but it's there, nevertheless. I sometimes feel that big electric scoreboards should be mounted on our better bass lakes.

"Meat" fishermen tend to scorn the other fellow's method, especially if it doesn't produce so many fish.



"Sport" fishermen tend to scorn the other guy's method no matter how many fish it catches.

I want to give one wild example and then retire to my dark closet and sulk some more.

At a public fishing clinic, one of the speakers reacted violently about "stirring," a method of catching snook with a heavy pole and line. He felt there should be a law against it and spoke in scathing phrases about those who would stoop to so depraved a practice.

In the next breath he brought applause with the announcement that he was a bait fisherman and proceeded to ridicule artificial lures because they don't catch so many fish.

I couldn't help thinking how the premise could be carried through to its obvious conclusion.

"Stirring" would become illegal because the bait fishermen thought it unsportsmanlike; bait fishing would become illegal because artificial lure users disapproved; artificial casting lures would be illegal because fly fishermen simply couldn't stand them; heavy fly tackle would be out because light fly tackle was more sportsmanlike; all fly tackle would be discarded because ultra-light spinning enthusiasts felt 2-pound monofilament line was more sporting.

In reverse, the conclusion might be that dynamite is more effective and cheaper than any of the other methods.

I guess fishermen have always wanted to catch fish but the score seems to be more important as time goes on.

Apparently one of the best gimmicks for an ad in an outdoor magazine is that the method touted is "illegal" in certain states or has been prohibited in certain national parks. Wheee! Almost as good as having a novel banned in Boston!

Articles on bass fishing generally reveal bass fish-

ing "secrets" or mark the way to an "unknown" bass frontier where the fish are actually dangerous. I haven't read of a really new method in 20 years and some of the giants in the photos come from hatcheries.

Incidentally, the "secrets" include such shockers as the fact bass get in the shade in hot weather and sometimes feed at night.

In the night category is the snapper that bass prefer moonlight nights (or darkness as the case may be).

The fact these articles are top sellers simply indicates that no ones wants to simply learn fishing skills and then go out and use them. He wants a no-work, sure-fire, lunker-killing method that will allow him to fill the boat and get back to TV.

THERE ARE SEVERAL ways of checking the action of a rod in a tackle store. Most popular method is to waggle it violently, possibly knocking over a counter display or whacking the merchant on an ear.

Even waggling will tell you a lot if you're an experienced waggler and waggle the same way on each rod you pick up.

I'm a little more conservative myself. In checking rod stiffness, I just go through the motions of making a snap cast and, at the same time note where the rod bends and how much. I learn some things that way but not as much as I pretend to when someone is watching. It very seldom feels just the way I think it will when I get it suited up with reel, line and lure.

Actual casting is the best test but few purchasers go that far. Generally there's no room for it and it's seldom that the proper reel, line and lure are rigged.

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The true sports fisherman includes good companionship, an interest in wildlife and the more primitive, private waters when seeking quiet, relaxing days of angling enjoyment.





## Hunting-Trials-Training



By JIM FLOYD

**I** MADE THE SCENE of my first bird dog field trial some sixteen years ago. At the conclusion of that first trial, I was nursing some saddle weary bones, amazed at the number of birds located, fascinated by the outstanding dog work and thoroughly and completely confused by the conversation and expressions that were a part and parcel of the activity.

Recently my wife accompanied me on a field trial, and while she is a bit more accustomed to horses than I at my first trial, I found myself in a position similar to that of a baseball fan trying to explain the game to someone completely unfamiliar with the objective of the sport. I was using field trial terminology and then having to explain the meaning of the expression.

The tremendous growth in recent years of interest in sporting dogs, plus the realization that trials will provide year round activity, has produced a growing field of newcomers. Many of these are experienced quail hunters and long familiar with hunting dogs. As a rule they have the enthusiasm, and they love their dogs. If a man has the time, patience and inclination he will probably tackle the training problem himself; others will utilize the services of a professional trainer. Some will become accomplished field trial fans, but meanwhile there is considerable lost ground through lack of experience.

To help eliminate a duplication of the condition of bewilderment that I experienced on my first trial the following are some of the terms and expressions of the bird dog field trial game:

**DRAWING:** The drawing is a manner of selecting the running order of the dogs entered in a particular stake. The name of the dog and usually that of the owner or handler is entered on a slip of paper and that slip placed in a hat. The slips are then drawn from the hat usually by someone not directly interested in the stake and numbered as they are drawn.

**BRACE:** A brace is two dogs that compete at the same time. The dogs are drawn to run in pairs, being braced as the names are picked from the hat.

A partial glossary of terms and expressions likely to be heard at bird dog field trials

**BRACEMATE:** A dog's running companion during a given heat.

**HEAT:** An allotted period of time in which the dog is allowed to hunt or run under judgment.

**BREAKAWAY:** The start of a pointing dog field trial when the dogs are cast off or released for the start of the hunt.

**HANDLER:** This may or may not be the owner of the dog. It is the individual that will handle and command the dog during the trial.

**SCOUT:** When in the opinion of a handler his dog has been gone for too long a period of time, he may, generally with the judges' permission, send a scout (another individual) out to search for the missing dog.

**GALLERY:** Owners, handlers, scouts, and interested observers who are following the trial activity. A gallery may be mounted on horseback, four wheel drive vehicles or wagons. A gallery is not allowed to move in front of the judges, handlers or working dogs, and generally is controlled by a trial marshal.

**ONE-COURSE TRIAL:** A trial in which all braces will run the same course.

**CONTIGUOUS COURSE:** Where the area is large enough each brace will run over fresh grounds.

**BIRD FIELD:** An area, usually at the end of a one-course trial, where birds have been planted to assure game for each successive brace.

**HIE ON:** A term used to send a dog on. Some handlers employ two short blasts on a whistle, others use terms such as "Go on, Hi-yon, Hunt on, or whatever may cross their minds at the moment".

**WHOA:** The most widely used term for ordering a dog to stop. Some handlers sort of slur this word by saying "Whup".

**BIG-GOING:** A term that implies that a dog is a big running dog, he runs wide and hunts far.

**POINT:** A dog is pointing when he indicates



the presence of game by coming to a complete stop. It is important that the birds be located accurately. There are various terms by which a dog's pointing attitude may be described, lofty, intense or rigid, indifferent or positive.

**FLUSH:** When a dog approaches too closely to birds, or nears them in such a manner as to cause the birds to take wing, he is said to have flushed the game.

**STYLE:** This describes the dog in action and on point, with reference to his movement afield and his posture and attitude on point.

**BACK:** A dog is credited with a back when he comes upon another dog who is pointing, and the dog shows confidence in his pointing brace-mate by also stopping or assuming a pointing attitude, without having scented the birds. If a dog fails to honor his brace-mate's find on sight he may be commanded to back by his handler. If he fails to honor either the sight of his brace-mate or his handler's command and advances until the scent of the birds causes him to freeze he would be considered guilty of stealing a point. If two dogs make the same find, each without knowledge of the other's presence, the find is divided.

**TRAILING:** A practice in which one dog trails his brace-mate and will not hunt for himself, permitting his brace-mate to take the initiative. A "head-trailer" will by watching the other dog out of the corner of his eye, turn in front and manage to keep just ahead. This dog is trailing even though at first glance he may appear to be leading.

**TRAILING:** When working birds, this refers to the manner of locating game by putting nose to the ground and following foot scent.

**ROADING:** The method of locating birds by following scent left in the wake of the birds, and



A dog is credited with a "back" when he comes upon another dog who is pointing, and shows confidence in his "brace-mate" by also stopping, or assuming a pointing attitude.

this scent may be breast high in the air. When roading, a dog does not necessarily go to the ground with his nose for foot scent.

**POTTERING:** This term has reference to the actions of a dog while working game. The dog that seems unable to distinguish between foot and body scent or is unable to make up his mind as to a find is generally called a potterer.

**BLINKING:** A dog that locates birds and then circles away and leaves them without pointing, is said to have blinked his birds. There are a number of reasons a dog may blink birds.

**UNPRODUCTIVE:** A point without producing birds. This may be a point where birds have been  
(Continued on page 32)



A field trial gallery is made up of dog owners, handlers, scouts, and interested observers following the trial activity. A gallery may be on horseback, in vehicles or wagons, and are not allowed in front of the judges or handlers.



# BOATING

With the heavy boating season about to start, vacation sailors are reminded to check out their required safety gear



By ELGIN WHITE

**Y**OU KNOW we boatmen in Florida who have travelled rather extensively in this marvelous state, have all pretty well concluded that Fort Lauderdale probably has more boats per inch than any other place in the world, save maybe Venice, Italy.

In fact, many nautical enthusiasts have tabbed Lauderdale the "Venice of America," and they won't get any arguments from this corner.

All of which is leading up to the big moment in June at Fort Lauderdale when the Sixth Annual Pier-66 Marine show will be dedicated to Florida's "Venice."

Show director Ronnie Stroud, in making the announcement honoring Fort Lauderdale, said the June 18-19-20 event is to be so-dedicated because "Fort Lauderdale has always had a water connotation with its name. The city got its first big boost when it was called the 'Venice of America,' and in recent years, now, we have been able to claim Lauderdale as the boating capital of the world."

Stroud emphasized that this theme will be carried throughout the entire boat show this year, and he hopes the show will inspire everyone attending to carry their message throughout the country.

Back in 1960, when Pier 66 first staged a summer boat show, some 3,500 spectators appeared at the two-day, daylight event. Last year, when the show went under the lights for the first time, more than 40,000 enthusiasts turned out.

Now, this reporter has been to a lot of boat shows, namely the Greater Miami event, the Chicago show and the big binge in New York. And they are all great. You see boats you never dreamed would be concocted by anyone just short of a nightmare, and then you see some drool-producing babies that you would give a right arm for.

The Fort Lauderdale show features in the main exhibits by dealers in the Broward County area, although outside exhibits are being accepted.

Don't worry about prices, chillun. There is free parking and free admission, and you just can't beat those odds. The show will remain open until 10 o'clock each night, too.

If you're in the Lauderdale area in mid-June, make plans to attend this boat show. Real good summer fare.

HURLEY CAMPBELL, editor of SOUTHERN OUTDOORS magazine, always closes out his column in the Baton Rouge Morning Advocate with "take a boy fishing with you."

With the tremendous surge in buying habits of boatmen towards the small 14-ft. aluminum boats for family fishing, ol' Hurley's advice is getting to some perked up ears. And mid-summer offers a better opportunity for just such fishing activities with man and boy than any other time . . . especially so since the kids are out of school and Pop has a good excuse now to take the day off.

Fishing isn't all that attracts 'em, now though. Running these new rigs is easier than handling the family car, and every member of the family is getting to be quite "hep" on the operation of small fishing rigs in addition to the larger family cruisers.

WHAT'S WITH the canoe bit? I always thought those things went out with the Indians, but darned if you don't see more and more of 'em on Florida's rivers and streams these days. And we even came across a bunch of nuts taking canoes out of Key West heading towards the Marquesas atoll, some 20-miles to the westward! With nothing but paddles yet! Really, fellas!

Canoeing has taken a fantastic turn for the better in recent months, though. New aluminum craft and other light portables have taken to people's fancy, and the way you can rig outboards to 'em has taken the work out of paddling, and for downright enjoyment and easy boating for two-three people, you can't beat 'em. They are excellent craft for light fishing trips, but don't try hanging into a tarpon with one. John Wilhelm of St Petersburg tried it not long ago and learned how to swim real fast.

A NEW IDEA in safety for boatmen who are ardent "stand-up" fishermen has been forwarded our way by Bill Prentiss of Johnson Motors. Bill says they have come up with an idea of looping a floating cushion through your belt while you're standing up casting, and in case you get one on that's bigger 'n you, and he hauls you overboard, you'll never have to worry about whether or not you can swim. Too,



some anglers get drivers who are cowboys when it comes to starting up fast from a trolling position, throwing the unsuspecting angler into the deep.

It's an idea worth tryin' when you're out trolling next time.

Now that summer is here, it always behooves us to remember a few safety precautions, particularly now when we're taking the whole family to sea.

Bob Brewster has some thoughtful reminders. For example: Take a double-check when you're planning to leave for that boating trip or week-end vacation run. Do you have approved type life preservers for each occupant? Remember that this year certain preservers whose kapok stuffing is not enclosed in plastic bags are no longer legal, regardless of condition. Check labels to make sure your preservers meet the new standards.

If night operation is anticipated, do you have the required navigation lights and are they in working condition?

Do you have a suitable horn or whistle aboard?

Is the fire extinguisher aboard and fully charged? Never try to recharge one with compressed air at a filling station; moisture in that air will cause powder to lump and jam. Have the extinguisher charged with dry nitrogen gas by an approved shop. Put it in a readily accessible place and see that it's secure in its bracket.

While not legally required, a small first-aid kit is a sensible addition to any boat's equipment. Somebody may cut his foot on the beach before the season is over.

A tool kit along with a few spare spark plugs will enable small repairs and adjustments to be made while afloat. And how often I recall not having the right tools aboard when the steering cable broke, or a small adjustment was needed in the motor! This is exasperating, and can at times be down-right dangerous!

A good anchor with adequate length of line is a vital safety item. If the line has been used before, pull it to check for weak spots. If it has been used for a number of seasons, get rid of it and get some more.

Other things to check are compass, fenders, bilge pump, bailer, paddle, flashlight and spare gas can. Inspect each item carefully to make sure it is in good condition. Find safe, secure, accessible stowage places for each one.

And one more thing . . . check your boat and trailer registrations for validity and keep on board or in your pocket. You don't want to be embarrassed when one of our Boating Council boys happen to ease alongside some day.

JUNE IN Florida is, for the most part, quite dry



June is bustin' out all over, and so are small fishing boats with small fry and a proud Pop showin' how it oughta be done.

. . . but it's a wet, wet, wet world when you get caught on a lake, river, stream, or in the ocean in one of those June thunderstorms. I remember not too long ago when I was making a cruise from Apalachicola to Pensacola I ran into one of these "come up from nowhere" babies as I was entering Choctawhatchee Bay near Panama City, and I thought I was going to have to trade the outboard in for an Ark before it let up.

And guess what? Not a raincoat in sight! Another safety precaution I overlooked at the time, but never, never again. This can be doubly embarrassing when you have guests for a boat ride, who come aboard completely assured that there will be no rain that day . . . WHAM, the whole bottom drops out!

A good suggestion, dear friends, if you have an open boat, is to secure a good folding top. Many styles and lengths are available to fit any boat and prices run from 40 to 70 bucks on the average. This isn't bad, compared to costs for rainwear for the whole family, plus guests, and you'll never regret it.

Also, if you're planning to be a bold buccaneer type driver this summer and will sashay forth in windy and rainy weather, I'd advise you to see that your craft is equipped with a windshield wiper. And another thing, you bold knights of the sea, if you are going to be doing a lot of running in open waters this summer, where these sudden downpours can

(Continued on page 30)





It took work to get this string of bass and the man who caught them, Dr. H. R. Wilber, is a plugging expert. Those with fishing skills have the most fun.

Satisfied anglers are usually good at certain phases of fishing. The unhappy sports are generally those who refuse to learn anything on their own.

## RETIRE

By CHARLES WATERMAN

**W**E'VE BORROWED a phrase from the underworld. "He's doing hard time" we say when a retired Florida resident is stewing about how to spend his abundance of leisure. More specifically, we refer to one who quit work to fish and can't seem to get started at it.

The "hard time" term is a private phrase of my wife and me but the condition that it refers to is common.

You want to quit and fish? Do some thinking first.

I make my living, such as it is, writing about fishing and hunting. What I write is mostly the result of general experiences or "how to" articles as opposed to the relation of a specific hunting or fishing adventure.

Now I've decided that in order to write authentically about fishing I should spend at least 150 days out of the year actually engaged in it. I figure the hunting part takes 50 days of participation. This is a happy decision because I love to fish and

hunt or I wouldn't be in this business. Business? So what's my problem?

If you figure it's forcing myself to lay down my rod and grab my typewriter, you're wrong. My problem is forcing myself to get out and do those 200 days of research.

"What a jerk!" you say. This guy doesn't really like to fish. If he did, he'd hate the thought of pounding the typewriter."

But you're wrong. I love to fish. In the days of my youth, I've missed sleep, meals and a lot of other comforts just to fish. Until I went into the business, I spent every possible moment at it, but now, with the rest of a lifetime of fishing and hunting stretching before me, I get lazy about it.

It's easy to stay home today because it looks like rain or it's too hot or too cold or the lake will be crowded or the fishing reports are bad anyway. Getting a boat ready to go, assembling tackle or packing a lunch is a nuisance now; not unpleasant once in a while but a nuisance when it comes 200 days out of a year.



The joyful experiences of travel have palled a little. A fishing invitation to Canada or South America would have enraptured me a few years back. Now I study it thoughtfully and wonder if the fishing is really as good as the man says. Packing my gear 20 or 30 times a year is no longer the picnic it used to be.

Sure I want to fish in South America and Canada but I weigh the pleasure against the trouble and time spent getting there.

Part of that is a case of getting older; most of it is a matter of laziness and the knowledge that I can go next year if I put it off this time.

By now you wonder what the trials and tribulations of a hack outdoor writer have to do with you. I'll tell you.

If you consider retiring in Florida and spending your time fishing, your problem will be just the same as mine. You'll have all the time you want for your fishing and unless you play it smart you'll get pretty bored.

For one thing, you must be sure, danged sure, you're a fisherman. If you haven't been able to

fish before your retirement (no matter what you worked at) the chances are you don't really have much interest in fishing. Don't tell me you didn't have time. If you want to fish badly enough you'd have found time somewhere along the line.

The thoughts of fishing are pleasant. A picture of a man relaxed under a palm tree with a fishing rod across his knees is highly attractive to another man working hard, worrying hard and wading the slush of a prolonged northern winter.

I'm not throwing off on palm trees and relaxation but just how long do you think you could sit under a palm tree with a fishing rod and retain your sanity?

I'm not throwing off on fishing either but it isn't a guarantee of full time joy unless you're a special kind of person. Let's study the procedure of becoming a full time fisherman.

The old business of getting out what you put into it was never more true of anything. Without exception, all of the happy fishermen I know are good at some phase of it and became good through practice; "work" if you prefer that word.

The most dissatisfied fishermen I encounter are those who refuse to learn anything on their own. Often they can afford all the guides they want and confine their own skills to deciding when to go and how long to stay. I know some of these fellows who can return from a dream trip to some exotic fishing spot without being able to answer the simplest questions about the method used.

"The guide knew where to go," they say, never  
(Continued on next page)

## — and **FISH!**

A good outfit will hold fishing interest. This angler has a complete rig suited to his sport of bass fishing with plugs.







Fishing class in session. These people, most of them retired and new Florida residents, make a field trip with their instructor. Fishing courses are becoming increasingly popular.

(Continued from preceding page)  
considering the reason why that was the place or how the guide had decided.

Some of these folks will fish with guides out of the same dock for years and never learn the first thing about the country. When one of these fellows says he always uses tackle furnished by the guide I immediately suspect he isn't much of a fisherman. Nearly all good fishermen want their own tackle and assembling it is part of the sport. Anyway, these people complain a lot about the fishing and couldn't stand very many days of it.

I am not belittling these casual fishermen but I'm pretty sure that any one of them would have a hard time spending his retirement at fishing. If you fit in the category, don't buy yourself a one-way ticket to a bass lake. Better have some other hobbies.

I don't believe in competitive fishing but there must be some kind of a challenge.

I know a wealthy man who retired to Florida to fish. He bought a deep water cruiser and went out every day, trolling for sailfish, kingfish; anything that was striking. He became pretty good at it after a couple of years during which he fished the Gulfstream as regularly as a charter skipper. His friends got tired of it and he didn't care to go alone. The last I heard of him he was working in a welding shop for amusement.

If he'd been forced to steal time from a job to maintain and operate his boat, he'd probably have had a lot of fun at it. With nothing else to do, it got tiresome in a couple of years.

Some of the happiest retirees become artists at one specific kind of fishing. I know a retired merchant who has become a fly fishing expert and fishes all over the world using nothing but his fly



rod. He catches a lot of fish not usually considered fly fish and has a lot of fun doing it. He sets himself some pretty tough tasks and is enjoying life.

On the other end of the expense account is a man who fishes daily at a pier, specializing in flounder when they're running and going for pompano when they're available. His skill at these two kinds of bait fishing is dramatic although neither is ordinarily considered a "fancy" game fish. His fun is comparable to that of the fly fisherman.

Another retired angler I know has gradually gained greatest satisfaction from building tackle, especially lures.

None of these specialties is particularly easy and all take a great deal of study and practice.

Few fishermen who want to use only the easiest and simplest methods become serious fishermen. Call it ego or self-satisfaction or what you will, there is little fun in doing something that every-



one else can do just as well. The novelty soon wears off.

A roller coaster thrills or scares almost everyone but riding one would probably never develop into a satisfactory hobby because someone else is running the thing.

A lot of people go fishing with no abilities at all. The guide makes the cast and gives them move for move instructions when a fish strikes. The customers may have a wonderful time but they're like the roller coaster passengers and it's a dull fellow indeed who wants someone else to do all of his casting for him year in and year out.

But suppose you're a real fisherman and you've definitely decided you want to retire to Florida and fish. You still have some decisions to make. Your best move would be to spend an entire year in the state before buying a home or otherwise settling permanently. There's as much difference between bass fishing in the Florida panhandle and bone-fishing in the Keys as there is between Maine salmon and yellowtail off California.

Your first reaction is to find something similar to what you had at home. For example, when I

came to Florida, I was primarily a black bass fisherman so I sought bass fishing country.

A year of indecision is expensive but more desirable than settling where you don't care for the fishing. I know a fellow who bought a home on salt water thinking he'd learn to fish there. He knows now that the light tackle fishing he's used to just doesn't fit in with his new residence. There are other parts of the state where he'd have a wonderful time but he has to drive hundreds of miles to get to them.

Any fisherman who comes to Florida should study the kinds of fishing carefully. There's more than you think. I have repeatedly mentioned the fellow who fished in Florida for 12 years before he learned he could catch salt water fish with his bass tackle, the fellow who still thinks he has to go North for fly fishing and the bass fisherman who has lived 20 years within two miles of salt water trout fishing without trying it, driving 30 miles for bass fishing.

I have always been against hurried selection of a retirement spot.

Right now there is a boom in fishing classes,  
(Continued on page 33)

Trolling for shad on the St. Johns River, at left, this family group is taking it easy. Trolling would be a pleasant pastime for persons averse to any physical exertion.

Whatever lure is used (in this case a plastic worm) the results are better if the fisherman "learns his trade." Hit-or-miss fishing won't hold the interest of most retired folks.







# 1965-66 Hunting Season

## Northwest Region

**DEER:** November 20-January 16. Hunting permitted everyday. **SPECIAL SEASON:** Okaloosa, Walton, Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, November 20-December 5, and December 18-January 2. The deer season in Washington and Holmes counties is the same as for the Point Washington Management Area (Nov. 20-Dec. 5).

**TURKEY:** FALL SEASON: November 20-January 16. Hunting permitted everyday. No fall turkey season on Eglin Field. **SPRING GOBBLER SEASON:** March 26-April 10. Hunting from one-half hour before sunrise to 12-noon.

**QUAIL & SQUIRREL:** November 20-March 6. Hunting permitted everyday.

**DEER:** November 13-January 2. Hunting permitted everyday, except DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota counties which will be open for deer hunting from November 13 through November 21, only.

**TURKEY:** FALL SEASON: November 13-January 2. Hunting permitted everyday. **SPRING GOBBLER SEASON:** March 12-March 27 south of State Road 50; March 26-April 10 in Hernando County north of State Road 50. Hunting from one-half hour before sunrise to 12-noon.

**QUAIL & SQUIRREL:** November 13-February 27. Hunting permitted everyday.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** The use of rifles is prohibited in DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota counties except .22 rimfire rifles may be used other than for taking of deer and bear. The use of dogs in DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota counties shall be limited to bird dogs, retrievers and slow trail hounds. The use of running hounds or any other dog that can reasonably be considered a dog usable for running deer is specifically prohibited.

## South Florida Region

### FLORIDA'S FIVE REGIONS FOR HUNTING AND TRAPPING



Complete summaries of Hunting Regulations for Florida's Wildlife Management Areas will appear in **FLORIDA WILDLIFE**, starting next month, in the July 1965 issue.



# Regulations—Summary



## Northeast Region

**DEER:** November 13-January 2. Hunting permitted everyday.

In Gilchrist County, and that portion of Levy County between State Roads 337 and 339, from November 13 to November 21, only.

**TURKEY:** FALL SEASON: November 13-January 2. Hunting permitted everyday. NO OPEN SEASON for turkey in Alachua and Madison counties. SPRING GOBBLER SEASON: March 26-April 10. Hunting permitted everyday from one-half hour before sunrise to 12-noon. NO SPRING GOBBLER SEASON in Alachua and Madison counties.

**QUAIL & SQUIRREL:** November 12-February 27. Hunting permitted everyday.

**DEER:** November 13-January 2. Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during first 9 days, and between November 24 and November 28, AND between December 22 and January 2. Hunting permitted everyday in that portion of the Region lying south of State Road 50 and west of the St. Johns River.

**TURKEY:** FALL SEASON: November 13-January 2. Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during the first 9 days, and November 24 through November 28, AND December 22 through January 2. Hunting permitted everyday in that portion of the Region lying south of State Road 50, and west of the St. Johns River. SPRING GOBBLER SEASON: March 12-March 27, south of State Road 50 and in that portion of the Richloam Wildlife Management Area lying south of State Road 50. March 26-April 10, north of State Road 50. Hunting from one-half hour before sunrise to 12-noon. No Spring Gobbler Season on the Ocala and Citrus Wildlife Management Areas.

**QUAIL & SQUIRREL:** November 13-February 27. Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during the first 9 days, and November 24 through November 28, AND December 22 through January 2. Hunting permitted everyday in that portion of the Region south of State Road 50 and west of the St. Johns River.

## Central Region

## Everglades Region

**DEER:** November 13-January 2. Hunting permitted everyday. No deer hunting on the Florida Keys of Monroe County.

**TURKEY:** FALL SEASON: November 13-January 23. Hunting permitted everyday. SPRING GOBBLER SEASON: March 12-March 27. Hunting from one-half hour before sunrise to 12-noon.

**QUAIL & SQUIRREL:** November 13-February 27. Hunting permitted everyday.

### Bag Limits—Resident Game

**DEER (Buck):** 1 per day, 3 per season.

**TURKEY:** Nov., Dec., Jan., 2 per day, 3 per season, either sex. March-April Season, gobblers only, 1 per day, 2 per season.

**QUAIL:** 12 per day, not more than 24 in possession.

**GRAY SQUIRREL:** 10 per day, not more than 20 in possession.

**FOX SQUIRREL:** 2 per day, not more than 4 in possession.

**HOG:** 1 per day, 2 per season, except as provided on certain Management Areas.

**BLACK BEAR:** 1 per season.

**Shooting Hours—Resident Game:** From one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.



# The Florida WILD TURKEY

## Part 2

By JAMES A. POWELL

Assistant Chief, Game Management

MUCH EFFORT OF the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission over the past decade has been directed toward the restoration and relocation of wild-trapped turkeys. Most of this stock went into areas without turkey populations or where existing populations had been depleted.

Over a decade of restocking activities with both wild-trapped and pen-reared turkeys has proven the unsuitability of pen-reared turkey for restocking. The total lack of band returns from released game farm turkeys in Florida show that the program was non-productive. The pen-reared turkeys, regardless of the "wild blood" supposedly coursing through their veins, were simply unable to cope with the wild environment. If they were able to survive at all, they generally made their way to the nearest farm house to live with the hand-fed poultry.

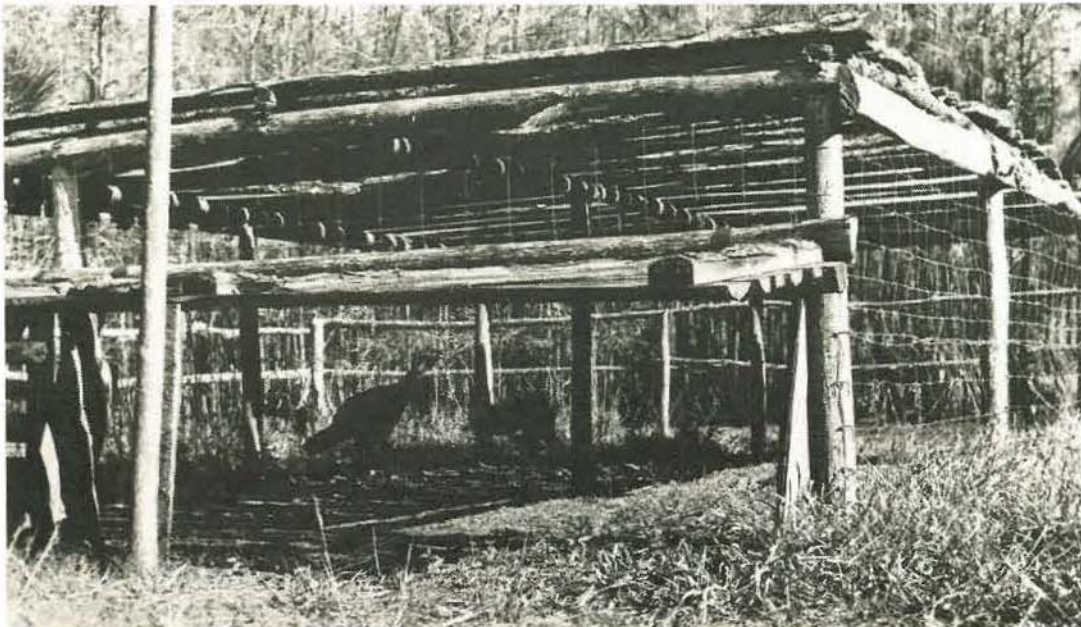
If it is desired to put additional targets in the field, then possibly a release of pen-reared birds just prior to the open season could be justified. The real objection to pen-reared birds, however, is the effect that such birds can have on an already existing population of wild turkey. Pen-reared turkeys often carry diseases, such as blackhead and fowl pox. When they are stocked in areas where wild turkeys are present, a large part of the population of wild birds can be eliminated by diseases carried by the pen-reared birds. (Powell 1961)

Several methods have been utilized in Florida's wild turkey trapping program. Drop nets and tunnel traps were tried and discarded. The greatest success has been through use of a drop door pole trap and a double "cannon" net assembly. The drop door trap necessitates that the trapper be in a blind before dawn to spring the drop door when the turkeys enter to feed. During the 1961-62 trapping season, 180 turkeys were captured with drop door traps. Traps of this type are permanent and remain on location throughout the year. The use of automatic type traps is undesirable because turkeys must be removed from the trap immediately after capture to keep them from killing themselves while attempting to escape.

While use of the cannon net in the capture of wild birds is not new, use of the single three-cannon net in Florida had met with little success despite its employment on many occasions. Recent use of two nets fired directly at each other overcame the problem of turkeys out-flying the single net. Two 30' x 60' nylon nets of two inch stretch, are used with three mortars per net. They are placed approximately 50 feet apart, allowing for a ten-foot overlap. During the 1961-62 trapping season, 148 wild turkeys were taken with this double net trap with very few turkeys escaping.

Research is being conducted at the present time by Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission Re-

Photo By Tom Wayman



Several trapping methods have been used in Florida's wild turkey program, including the drop door pole type, at left. A trapper hiding in a blind nearby springs the drop door when turkeys enter to feed.



Several methods of transporting and releasing of wild turkeys have been used in Florida. Use of the airplane is a good method because of the short time between trapping and release. Turkey in burlap bag, below, is easy to handle, and can be moved without injury.



Photo By Tom Wayman



search Personnel relative to the use of anesthetics and tranquilizers for capturing and holding wild turkeys. Initial attempts indicate that this method may have great promise.

Experience has also been gained in the handling, transporting, and releasing of wild trapped turkeys (Powell and Gainey, 1959). Formerly they were loaded into carrying crates and transported to the release site by pick-up truck. This necessitated confining the birds for as much as eight to ten hours or even overnight, depending upon the distance between the trap site and the release point. Since the wild turkey is by nature an impulsive freedom-loving creature, attempted escapes are continuous throughout the period of confinement. Self inflicted trauma was common, the turkeys scalp themselves and rub their necks raw regardless of how the

carrying crate was constructed. Mortality between the trap site and the release point averaged about six per cent each year. In addition, many birds released with severely scalped heads and necks may have died after release.

In 1956, the feasibility of releasing turkeys from slow-flying airplanes was tested (Powell and Gainey, *ibid.*). On the first test an immature hen was released from 250 feet at an air-speed of 45 mph. The bird fell freely for only 20-30 feet and went into a long glide. Since then many turkeys have been successfully released by this method, with only slight mortalities. Areas were stocked which would have been nearly inaccessible by any other method. They were, however, accessible to hunters operating from "swamp buggies."

Since the initiation of the turkey restoration program in Florida, 3,152 turkeys have been trapped, banded and released throughout the State and of these, over 500 have been released from the air. Examination of data from the band returns of the turkeys released by the plane shows considerably greater survival than on areas where the birds had been carried long distances by truck.

Two examples have been previously cited under the discussion of turkey populations regarding restoration success. Both of these areas continue to produce shutable or trapable populations of turkeys each year depending, of course, on the success of the hatch. Almost without exception, the controlled hunt areas, upon which most of the relocating is done, are showing a steady increase in harvest.

The 16-year relocation program has had a valuable public relations effect by gaining the good will of the public. Figure 7 presents the location and

(Continued on next page)

FIG. 7 and TABLES — Pages 25 and 26



(Continued from preceding page)  
numbers of relocated wild turkeys within the state.

### Protection

ANY DISCUSSION pertaining to the protection requirements of the turkey usually incurs heated debate, to say the least. In Florida it is felt that a well established and sizable turkey population in good habitat can withstand any amount of hunting under the present regulations. Good habitat in this respect does not refer to small areas but to blocks of land in the 50 to 100 thousand acre class with well established populations. Of course, illegal hunting on any area, particularly during the late summer months, or what is known as the "frying size" season, can be extremely detrimental to any turkey population. Given a successful hatching season, the turkey population appears to be able to bounce back regardless of the legal hunting pressure during the previous fall. An excellent example of this is the Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area in Glades County, Florida, where the population each year is subjected to tremendous hunting pressure. There seemingly is little effect on the next year's population, provided a successful hatching season occurs following the hunting season. Furthermore, if a successful hatch does not occur, the population will decrease whether it had been hunted or not the previous fall. This is illustrated on the refuges where our trapping program is maintained.

Hunting laws must be effectively enforced, particularly in the late summer months when the young poults are frying size. The amount of enforced protection required is largely dependent upon the attitude of the local people involved. It is most desirable to gain the confidence and support of the local people in order to reduce enforcement problems.

### Modern History

THE PAUCITY of documented information regarding the Florida wild turkey is apparent. While most states began losing their turkey flocks around the late 1800's, southern turkeys apparently held their own until the intensive logging removed most of the virgin forest between 1900 and 1920. The wild turkey population remained alarmingly low until general fencing occurred in the 1930's in southern and central Florida. At this time, farmers began to leave their small homesteads and they were fenced and posted, thus considerable areas were removed from the general hunting public. This situation existed through the 1940's, at which time the turkey population began to slowly recover from the low periods prior to general fencing. The statewide tur-

key population in 1947 and 1948 was estimated to be less than 26,000 (Newman and Griffin, 1950.) In addition, this survey listed 18 counties as being either without any turkeys or having fewer than 50 in the entire county. In 1961, the Florida turkey population was estimated to be in excess of 75,000 birds and in 1964, was estimated to be 80,000. Thus the statewide population has more than tripled in 16 years.

### Relationships

IN THIS discussion of the relationships between wild turkeys, other animals, agriculture, forest practices and other land uses, all remarks refer to management on a large scale. Specifically, the discussion pertains to large tracts of natural turkey habitat rather than small private holdings or plantations on which it may be desired to carry out intensive turkey management.

### Animals

Numerous investigators in the past have postulated that heavy competition for food between turkeys and other animals such as deer, cattle, and hogs can produce serious consequences for the wild turkey. Observations in Florida, throughout most of the turkey habitat, do not indicate that such competition is a serious threat. Examination of crop analyses data immediately discloses the variance in the turkey's diet which permits the turkey to survive admirably regardless of the competition for specific items.



A prime turkey food is the acorn. It is preferred that good wild turkey habitat have at least ten well formed oak trees per acre.



Competition for food between turkeys and other animals is not considered a serious danger to the turkey population in Florida. Greatest threat is the taking over of turkey range developments by increasing human population.



Referring again to the Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area and refuge, these adjacent areas totalling 225,000 acres, support one of the largest turkey populations in the State of Florida. The land is heavily grazed by cattle and overrun by hogs. Raising free range cattle is the landowners primary interest and the maximum number of range calves produced is his objective. Free-range hogs were permitted in Glades County, Florida, until 1963. Hogs are a detriment to the turkey trapping program and make it necessary to hog-fence all of the traps, but they do not appear to hinder the turkey population itself. The author has on innumerable occasions observed a group of 10 to 15 hogs rooting through a carpet grass flat, being followed by a flock of turkeys scratching in the freshly rooted ground. It is possible that free-range hogs may destroy a certain percentage of turkey nests, but there is lack of evidence that competition for food is a limiting factor to the turkey population. The Florida deer herd has not reached a high enough density in any of the turkey range to over-browse the available food supply.

In Florida, some conflict has been recently noted between turkeys and agricultural practices. In south-central Florida, considerable acreage has been and is being cleared for the planting of citrus groves. In good turkey habitat, small citrus groves do not appear to be detrimental. Turkeys may frequently be seen dusting and bugging in the small groves surrounded by a combination of other cover requirements. However, in the case of the extremely large groves, i.e., 10,000 to 20,000 acres that are now being established by the citrus cooperatives, there naturally can be a reduction of available habitat and a corresponding decline of existing turkey popula-

tions. The same thing holds true in relation to the establishment of very large improved pastures. Small improved pastures are very beneficial in most turkey habitats, but the establishment of extensive improved pastures can reduce suitable winter habitat. This is important in southern Florida where considerable tracts, formerly in runner oak, palmetto and cabbage palm have been completely cleared and planted to improved pasture.

### Forestry

Presently, the trend in the southeast is to planted forest and pasture. The trend to forests would seem to be beneficial and probably is, but another factor as yet not fully appraised is the "Timber Stand Improvement" practice. This includes the removal of the hardwoods that have little or no commercial wood value, thus converting the forest to a pure stand, usually of pine.

TSI probably does not affect the wild turkey population on range that supports and is managed for mixed pine-hardwoods, but almost certainly will affect the carrying capacity of the marginal turkey range unless other types of management designed for the turkey are practiced.

Strode (1956) made recommendations in an attempt to coordinate white-tail deer habitat needs with existing U. S. Forest Service "TSI" practices. These recommendations have been altered slightly to coordinate TSI practices with suggested turkey habitat needs. These recommendations are as follows:

#### A. Longleaf, Slash and Other Pine Types

1. No timber stand improvement (removal of

*(Continued on next page)*



Controlled use of fire is a useful turkey management tool. While turkeys thrive in areas where fire is never used, and where it is used with almost annual frequency, the best results are obtained between these extremes, for food and cover.



(Continued from preceding page)

oaks) will be done in areas containing less than ten oaks per acre.

2. Ten well formed game food producing trees (oaks preferred) will be left per acre in each area. If possible, trees will be well distributed. Trees with ten-inch trunks or greater will be selected when available.

#### B. Bottomland Hardwood Type

1. A minimum of ten well formed game food producing trees (oaks preferred) will be left in each acre. If possible, trees will be well distributed. Trees with ten-inch trunks or greater will be selected when available.

#### C. Live Oak Hammock Type

1. No stand improvement work will be scheduled in areas containing less than two acres.

#### D. Sand Pine Type (Ocala National Forest)

1. Sand pine encroaching in the longleaf type will be eliminated, except in areas stocked with 500 or more sand pine trees per acre and which average 36 inches or more in height.
2. Control of encroaching sand pine in the longleaf type will be accomplished by prescribed burning or by removal of merchantable trees.

#### E. Most Desirable and Desirable Trees for Wildlife Management

##### Most Desirable Hardwoods

Turkey Oak  
Live Oak  
Water Oak  
Laurel Oak  
Overcup Oak  
Cow Oak  
Post Oak  
Blue Jack Oak  
Black Gum  
Black Cherry

##### Desirable Hardwoods

Hickory  
Tupelo Gum  
Magnolia  
Beach  
Maple  
Ash

##### Other Preferred Tree and Shrub Species

Iron Wood  
Holly  
Dogwood  
Persimmon  
Youpon  
Gallberry

Myrtle  
Gooseberry  
Sparkleberry  
Wild Grapes  
Virginia Willow

The use of fire must be mentioned in any discussion of forestry and the turkey. Stoddard (1935) suggested controlled burning every three or four years for good management in the southeast. He observed that while wild turkeys appear to thrive both where fire is never used, and where it is used with almost annual frequency, the best results are obtained between these extremes. On most of the Florida wildlife management areas, a three year burning cycle is adhered to as closely as conditions permit where it is possible for game managers to



control the burning cycle. Landowners sometimes alter this cycle to one which they feel better fits their individual needs. For instance, on the Fisheating Creek Area, the landowner usually attempts to burn the palmetto prairies in alternate years.

On the privately owned timber lands, optimum management for turkeys includes controlled burning but may not be possible due to the landowner's contrary primary interest. However, it has been possible to initiate controlled burning after the pines have reached a certain age. Such a program may be continued for a long period, particularly if the pines are managed for sawtimber.

### Harvest and Other Mortality

AT THE PRESENT time, as reflected by the annual harvest of over 25,000 turkeys, Florida offers some of the best turkey hunting in the United States.

Table 19 presents the statewide turkey harvest, hunting pressure, and hunting success for the period 1950 through 1964.

The estimates of hunting pressure and harvest by species were obtained by means of a random mail survey. The carbon copies of all hunting licenses sold are used as the source of names. From these, a thousand names are selected at random from each of the five (5) conservation districts. These persons receive questionnaires concerning their hunting activity for the previous hunting season. The persons that do not respond to the initial mailing receive a follow-up questionnaire; to the remaining non-respondents, a third reminder is mailed. From the response to the survey, mean estimates are calculated for the various data. The means are then expanded by the district license sales to produce the district and statewide estimates of harvest and pressure (Jones, 1963).

Spring poult mortality can be severe due to excessive precipitation. Other forms of mortality cer-

tainly exist, but are not normally significant. Crippling loss certainly exists on all areas open to the hunting of the wild turkey. Estimates of this loss are nebulous to say the least. Hunters are reluctant to report crippling loss and almost no estimate can be made of the number of crippled turkeys that recover.

Illegal hunting loss fluctuates from area to area, season to season and with economic conditions. The Florida "cracker" who ate turkey about as often as he ate grits, while remaining vivid in memory, is extremely hard to find. Better law enforcement and land use changes have aided the turkey considerably.

The topic of predation has been discussed more than management. In certain cases, predator control of one type or another might be justified if it is inexpensive. It is a fact, however, that Florida's turkey population has been expanding its range and numbers for at least 15 years in the face of predator populations that have reached great proportions. Certainly, turkeys are preyed upon by birds and animals other than man at all stages of their life, but in extensive management it would be out of the question to recommend predator control to aid the population.

Disease can be devastating to a population. Illustrated here is a turkey from Volusia County, Florida, captured just prior to its death from fowl pox in 1958. A sportsmen's group had released a number of pen-reared turkeys without checking into the possible consequences. Harvests prior to this release varied between 60 and 70 turkeys each season. During the hunting season following these releases, the recorded harvest for the area was two turkeys. The seriousness of blackhead in turkey populations is reported from a number of states, but it appears that in Florida at least, fowl pox is considerably more predominant than is blackhead. Close control

*(Continued on next page)*



Disease is always a serious threat to the turkey population. Release of pen raised turkeys by groups, attempting to boost the turkey flock, may expose the wild stock to fowl pox, or blackhead, resulting in devastation of the wild turkey population in release area.



(Continued from preceding page)  
over releases of pen-reared birds is strongly recommended.

Starvation, particularly in connection with heavy winter snow cover, is of little consequence in the southeastern states.

Other mortality factors of importance are hard to ascertain. Loss from crippling may be important during the hunting seasons. Records from the wildlife management areas reveal that at least twenty-five per cent of the turkeys shot at escape crippled. How many of these eventually recover is not known.

Some hens are lost during the nesting season to predation and other causes, but this is probably negligible. A few records have been obtained which indicated death of the hens from heat prostration, shock or other unknown causes.

### Hunting and Regulations

THE GENERAL hunting season in Florida traditionally begins on the third Saturday in November and generally is terminated after the first Sunday in January. The spring gobbler season, formerly held in a few counties in northern Florida and now held statewide, generally takes place from the end of March through the first two weeks in April. During the fall season, Florida law permits the taking of two turkeys per day and a total of three of either sex for the season. Two additional gobblers are permitted during the spring on a one-per-day basis. Either sex harvest usually produces heated discussions, not only among turkey hunters but among turkey biologists throughout the country. Table 3 shows the average sex ratio in Florida to be about 40 per cent gobblers and 60 per cent hens, thus under a "gobbler only" law, 60 per cent of the total population is not legally available to the hunter. The remaining 40 per cent of the gobbler population consists of 65 per cent adults and 35 per cent sub-adults. Since many hunters are unable to differentiate between a sub-adult gobbler and a hen, the percentage of the population available for harvest is further reduced. Thus, out of every 100 turkeys, hardly more than 26 could be considered available for harvest. With an annual mortality, even in non-hunted areas, of 40 to 50 per cent (Table 4) this would permit approximately one-fourth of the total population to be totally wasted each year under a "gobbler only" law. Such a harvest regulation could be rarely justified.

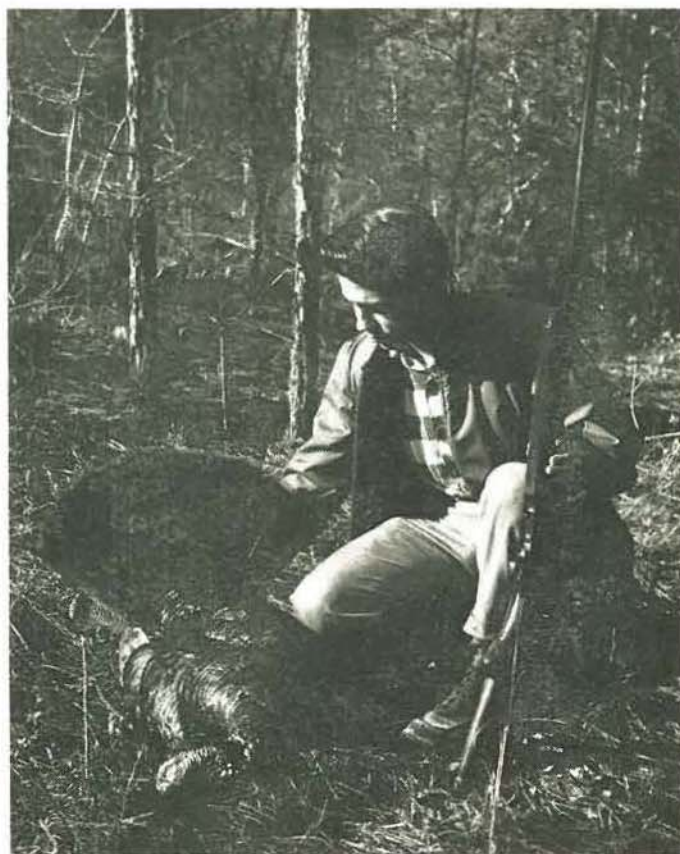
The writer is of the firm opinion that hunting (within the present regulatory framework such as Florida's) in good turkey range of adequate size, cannot be a threat to a wild turkey population.

It is unlawful to hunt turkeys with a dog in Florida. Since the majority of the turkey hunters still hunt either by "roosting" or calling, the use of dogs in hunting by the few hunters who would train

them for this sport would disrupt the hunting techniques of the majority.

One of the most common methods of hunting and harvesting the Florida wild turkey, particularly in south Florida, is known as roosting. In the late afternoon, a hunter will station himself in a section of hammock or swamp that he thinks is a roosting spot. The area he selects is generally one in which he has previously observed turkeys or turkey sign. The hunter will remain perfectly quiet until well after dusk during which time he hopes to hear turkeys yelping and/or flying up to roost. If he is successful in aurally locating a flock of turkeys in this manner, he will leave the area very quietly and return the next morning before dawn. As the legal shooting hour approaches, the hunter hopes that he has put himself in a position to bag one of the roosted turkeys when it flies down, or to kill one while it is still on the roost.

Wild turkeys, like most other game birds and mammals, can be enticed to frequent a particular location by baiting. It is, therefore, not very difficult to understand why good game management practices dictate that such an unfair and unsportsmanlike method of taking wild turkeys with bait should be made illegal and rigidly enforced. It would be quite possible to entirely eliminate a turkey population from a given area if this method of harvesting were permitted. In fact, this is probably how much of the Southeast lost its turkeys.



Included in the protection plans for the future of wild turkey hunting is concentrated efforts to acquire areas of good turkey habitat for public use.





Fig. 7

See Next Page

### Summary and Future Prospects

DURING THE PAST 14 years, Florida's wild turkey population has continued to expand and grow and to enlarge its range. At the present time, as reflected by the annual harvest, Florida offers some of the best turkey hunting in the United States to the general hunting public. The overall picture, however, is not as rosy as a first glance might make it appear. The tremendous growth of the human population, coupled with the intensive development of heretofore "undeveloped" areas, is seriously reducing good turkey habitat. More people means more hunters, and this in turn means increased hunting pressure. Thus, while the present turkey population ranges from fair to good in most areas, it is far from being out of danger.

What can the sportsmen do to help the wild turkey? Basically, of course, everyone should strictly

obey the regulations imposed on the harvest of this valuable resource. These regulations are set so that the maximum harvest of the resource is permitted to the most people without interfering with the biological maintenance of the population. In other words, to permit as many people as possible to harvest the maximum surplus without permitting the harvest to be a detriment to the existing or expanding turkey population.

In addition, and almost equally important, is the need for a concentrated effort backed by enthusiastic public endorsement to acquire areas of good turkey habitat for public use either by lease, outright purchase or otherwise. The continued application of research, management, and development techniques to such lands would aid materially in forestalling a turkey population reduction by encroaching civilization. ●



# FLORIDA WILD TURKEY (Continued from preceding page)

Table 14.—AGE RATIOS BY SEX OF TURKEYS HARVESTED ON SOUTH FLORIDA MANAGEMENT AREAS—1956-1961

Year	GOBBLERS				HENS				Number Checked	Total Kill	Per Cent of Kill Checked
	Adult		Subadult		Adult		Subadult				
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent			
1956-57.....	44	19.0	53	22.8	44	19.0	91	39.2	232	1009	23.0
1957-58.....	40	31.8	28	22.2	41	32.5	17	13.5	126	759	16.6
1958-59.....	37	22.3	29	17.5	56	33.7	44	26.5	166	761	21.8
1959-60.....	76	30.8	25	10.1	104	42.1	42	17.0	247	465	53.1
1960-61.....	48	28.7	30	18.0	50	29.9	39	23.4	167	384	43.5
TOTALS.....	245	26.1	165	17.6	295	31.4	233	24.8	938	3378	27.8

Table 15.—DYNAMIC TABLE BASED ON 340 BAND RETURNS FROM HARVESTED WILD TURKEYS

Survival Interval in Years	Number Dying Each Year	Number Alive Each Year	Per Cent of Total Alive at Start	Per Cent Dying Each Year
0- 1	220	340	100.0	64.7
1- 2	67	120	35.3	55.8
2- 3	21	53	15.6	39.6
3- 4	16	32	9.4	50.0
4- 5	4	16	4.7	25.0
5- 6	7	12	3.5	58.3
6- 7	2	5	1.5	40.0
7- 8	2	3	0.9	66.7
8- 9	0	1	0.3	0.0
9-10	1	1	0.3	100.0
10-11	—	—	—	—

Reprints of the technical report, The Florida Wild Turkey, by James A. Powell, complete with all reference tables and charts, plus author-literature reference, will be available July 1, 1965. Space did not permit presentation of all reference materials in FLORIDA WILDLIFE, May and June 1965 issues. Requests for copies of the complete publication should be made to:

Game Management Division  
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission  
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Table 19.—FLORIDA STATEWIDE TURKEY HARVEST, PRESSURE AND SUCCESS—1950-1964

Year	Harvest	PRESSURE		SUCCESS	
		Hunters	Man-Days	Average Kill per Hunter	Average Man-Days per Turkey Harvested
1950-51	15,000	28,000	110,000	.54	7.33
1951-52	10,200	16,000	76,000	.64	7.45
1952-53	13,150	18,860	96,300	.62	7.32
1953-54	17,800	29,200	139,000	.61	7.81
1954-55	14,300	25,000	130,000	.57	9.09
1955-56	16,300	33,000	150,000	.49	9.20
1956-57	17,100	29,000	150,000	.59	8.77
1957-58	20,200	33,600	183,200	.60	9.07
1958-59	20,800	36,300	188,600	.57	9.07
1959-60	20,600	34,800	193,000	.59	9.37
1960-61	21,600	38,700	173,200	.56	8.02
1961-62	23,900	43,400	223,000	.55	9.33
1962-63	24,100	48,300	287,100	.50	11.91
1963-64	28,600	53,300	357,900	.54	12.51
<b>14-Year Average</b>	<b>18,832</b>	<b>33,390</b>	<b>175,521</b>	<b>.569</b>	<b>9.018</b>

Table 16.—BAND RETURN DATA—WILD TRAPPED FLORIDA TURKEYS—1949-1964

Year	Total Trapped	Total Band Return	Per Cent Return	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
1949.....	62	3	4.8	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1950.....	154	9	5.8	—	5	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1951.....	122	6	4.9	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1952.....	69	4	5.8	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1953.....	44	6	13.6	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1954.....	211	10	4.7	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
1955.....	171	23	13.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1956.....	202	42	20.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	7	3	3	1	1	—	—	—
1957.....	231	28	12.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	8	3	1	1	—	1	—
1958.....	173	35	20.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	6	6	3	—	—	—
1959.....	217	56	25.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	15	1	1	1	—
1960.....	193	26	13.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	3	1	1	—
1961.....	176	19	10.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	1	5	—
1962.....	321	35	10.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	14	1
1963.....	310	38	12.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36	2
1964.....	489*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>3145* (2656)</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Per Cent ...</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>

\* In deriving percentages, the 1964 release figure was not added to the total banding figure since these bands had not gone through a hunting season thus affording no opportunity for harvest return.  
Mean recovery rate, 24.3 per year or 7.1% of birds banded.



## FISHING LICENSES

1965-1966

**LICENSE FEES**—All Florida fishermen between 15 and 65 years of age must possess a valid fishing license when using a rod and reel, or an artificial lure in fresh waters, or for taking non-game fish by the use of spears, gigs, or bow and arrow.

**RESIDENT**—Fishing & Hunting Combination \$10.50 Annual, Statewide

**RESIDENT** ..... \$ 3.00 Annual, Statewide

**NON-RESIDENT** ..... \$ 2.25 5-Day Continuous

(except children under 15 years of age) \$ 3.25 14-Day Continuous

\$ 8.00 Annual

Licenses are issued from offices of County Judges and their authorized sub-agents. Residents using cane poles or other fishing methods outside of home county must possess Resident Licenses. License is not required of residents to fish non-commercially with not more than three cane poles in county of legal residence, except on Fish Management Areas.

## DAY'S BAG LIMIT

10 Black Bass—15 Chain Pickerel—30 White Bass

35 Panfish: Bream, Perch, and Red-finned Pike  
Individually, or in aggregate

Total Possession Limit: Two Day's Bag Limit  
after the first day of fishing.

**SPECIAL LIMITS**—Jim Woodruff Reservoir, and St. Mary's River: Limits are 50 Panfish, 15 Black Bass, 30 White Bass, 15 Chain Pickerel; 50 of all gamefish in aggregate.

**SPECIAL LIMITS**—In Dade, Monroe, Broward or Collier counties, except Lake Trafford: 70 Panfish daily bag limit.

**SPECIAL LIMITS**—Deer Point Lake, and its tributaries, in Bay County: 10 Channel Catfish daily bag limit.

**SPECIAL SIZE LIMIT**—No person shall take or possess any Bass less than 12-inches in length in Putnam County.

## Method of Taking Fresh Water Fish

Game fish may be taken with pole and line, rod and reel, bob, spinner, or troll. Nongame fish may be taken with bush hook, set line or trot line baited with cut bait or other substance, not including live or whole fish, or any part of any game fish. Trot lines so baited, and limited to 25 hooks, are permitted for taking non-game fish for personal use with regular fishing license. Use of set lines or bush hooks prohibited in Fifth District. Non-game fish other than catfish may be taken by manually operated spears, gigs, or bow and arrow during daylight hours, except where prohibited by local law. Underwater swimming or diving is prohibited when using such devices. Non-game fish may be taken by certain other devices under permit or as provided by special regulations pertaining to specific waters.

DO NOT BUY OR SELL YOUR GAMEFISH



# MUZZLE FLASHES



By EDMUND McLAURIN

In addition to a good gun fit,  
improvement comes from actual  
shooting under controlled conditions

**T**O THE SHOTGUNNER, good gun fit can easily be more important to successful shooting than dollar value or gun used.

The field gunner preferably wants his shotgun to shoot where he points it, with gun centering its shot pattern at or only slightly above the spot covered by the gun's front sight. The trapshooter usually wants his shotgun to shoot high, so that he can better see and follow fast-thrown clay targets.

Where feathered game targets fly wild and erratic, and in Skeet shooting, the need is a fast-handling gun of unquestioned fit. Even a fraction of a second can mean the difference between a hit and a miss; good gun fit is all important to correct coordination and timing.

Last month's firearms section in *FLORIDA WILDLIFE* reviewed the various technical points that, together, constitute good gun fit, and gave tips on how to recognize and obtain it.

But the only way to be sure is to do some actual shooting under controlled test conditions.

Every shotgun has its own particular shot size and powder load preference. This combination will pattern better than any other. To find it, you must test fire various shell loads at individual paper targets and compare the results.

A variable choke device is particularly helpful in finding the best choke for buckshot loads, popular with deer hunters.

Both shot and rifled slugs are affected by the fixed law of gravity. But even at the long shotgun range of 50 yards, small shot drop only about 5 inches and rifle slug only about 2-1/10 inches.

Generally, large size shot, up to but not including buck, will pattern better than small shot. Likewise, considerably used barrels usually shoot better than brand new or unduly high polished tubes.

The standard range for patterning shotguns is 40 yards, with shot pattern placement and quality evaluated by noting how well centered is the main shot charge in relation to point of aim, and how uniformly and densely the shot load is distributed within a 30-inch circle of measurement on a large sheet of paper or cardboard. A five inch bullseye cut from black photo album paper makes a good aiming point.

However, lacking a 40-yard range you can pattern your shotgun at 25 yards, using field loads fired at a pointing mark made from a circle of black paper 3½ inches in diameter.

(Where game bird and deer silhouettes are used as aiming points, the figures should be life-size for 40 yard testing, and reduced in proportion at lesser ranges.)

For target paper you can use roll "ends" of newspaper print paper, or sheets of wide wrapping paper. These can be thumb-tacked or stapled to stakes set in the ground or to one of those big cardboard cartons that refrigerators come in. It is best to pre-cut target papers to uniform size, for more convenient later use. . . .

Very practical is the Xpert Shotgun Pattern Gauge developed by shooter Bob Hyde, 2116 Liberty Street, Lincoln Park, Michigan. Hyde markets a large transparent gauge that is sectioned into half-inch squares and also has a number of shot encompassing circles drawn around a central point of intersection.

Each one-half inch square on the transparent gauge is equivalent to two inches of space at any range fired, and the 70% Full Choke pattern shot density measurement ring is always equal to a 30-inch circle. Larger rings can be applied for accurate measurement of lesser shot density percentages, such as Modified and Improved Cylinder.

With the Hyde graph, shot loads can be tested at measured short ranges, with results equivalent to normal shot pattern expansion over longer ranges. For a 40 yard field shooting range, for example, you could carry out tests at only 30 feet, with assurance of proportionate shot pattern expansion and quality when later shooting at 40 yards. . . .

To maintain a consistent line of aim when shooting test pattern targets, a second bead sight located on the shotgun's rib about 12 to 14 inches behind the front sight is helpful.

Use the area of the trigger finger that is between the very tip and the first joint for a better controlled trigger pull. Applied pressure should be straight back. The trigger should be pulled or slapped sharply, in marked contrast to the slowly applied trigger squeeze of expert riflemen.



Fix your aiming eye on point of aim, just as you would do afield; quickly bring up shotgun to shoulder and line of aim, and fire without hesitation. Use only one shell per target paper.

Walk to target and study the results. Mark the target paper with its proper number sequence, size of shot used and range; then replace it with a fresh one.

For truly accurate evaluation of how your gun patterns, fire on not less than six or eight target papers, one shell per target for each size of shot used.

Let's assume your shot pattern has centered itself high in relation to point of aim, on a majority of your test targets. The evidence points to comb that is too high, too straight a stock or both; or a stock too short at heel in comparison to length of toe.

The shotgunner who uses the binocular method (both eyes open) of aiming usually needs a higher shooting shotgun than the shooter who keeps only one eye open and, therefore, is more gun conscious.

Low shot patterns generally imply that the shotgun stock has too low comb height, too long a heel, or has too much drop and too little butt-plate pitch. . . .

For comparison, the average good shooting gun has about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inches drop at comb, 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches drop at heel, and a barrel pitch-down of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches. These standard dimensions may or may not be correct for your physique or specific need. (Consult last month's MUZZLE FLASHES for detailed information as to how to go about obtaining good individual gun fit.) . . .

A right-handed shooter who habitually gets shot patterns that form to the left of point of aim on test target papers probably has a stock that is too long for him, or possibly has some conflict between aiming eye and non-performing left eye.

If he is left-handed and aims with left eye, then shot patterns will probably tend to form to right of point of aim if stock is too long. Also, a stock that is too long will invariably tend to catch on clothing when the gun is shouldered rapidly.

If the thumb that encircles the small of the gunstock hits the shooter's nose when he fires, it indicates too short a stock for that individual. Solution is to either add a recoil pad to create needed additional stock length, or use decorative spacers be-

If stock dimensions seem correct and the main shot pattern impact point is merely high or low in relation to aim and target, then take your shotgun and target pattern papers to a good gunsmith and have him alter the angle of the butt-plate so that barrel pitch is slightly changed to the extent needed to bring delivered shot patterns into line of aim.

Wide-of-mark shot patterns from shotguns fitted



Whether you shoot from right or left shoulder, good gun fit is essential to fast gun handling afield. On fast targets, a fraction of a second can mean the difference between a hit and a miss.

with muzzle style choke control device may be due to mis-alignment of choke control attachment, rather than poor gunstock fit. This is especially true where choke control devices have been locally installed without actual test firing. Factory or local job, always try to have the gun returned to you accompanied by test pattern targets as tangible proof that the gun delivers its main shot pattern to point of aim.

Target patterns will show only whether or not your shotgun shoots to point of aim or erratically. The targets will not necessarily truly reflect shot pattern quality, simply because not all of the shot in the charge will reach the target paper at the same time, even though the paper will register a hole for each connecting pellet.

Also keep in mind that it takes an average minimum of four or five pellets to kill most feathered game. There must be sufficient remaining shot velocity at target to cause pellets to penetrate to vitals. If you are using small shot and they give killing penetration, then fine. If not, you must use a larger size shot. Small shot rapidly lose velocity as range is increased; it takes heavy shot to maintain velocity and give killing penetration at long range.

To test shot penetration, fill a large cardboard box with SAT. EVE. POST magazines, stacked on end, and fire at carton and contents over average shooting ranges. Keep in mind that this is a shot pene-

*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from preceding page)  
tration test, not a test for pattern quality when evaluating results.

Used with rifled slugs, a shotgun can be made to play the role of a short-range big game rifle.

To shoot slugs accurately, you must have a rear sight on your shotgun. The usual type is a receiver-mounting peep, adjustable for both windage and elevation. Redfield, Williams and Lyman are three available makes.

Discard the screw-in, small hole peep disc furnished, and use the big aiming aperture that results. Don't worry about the expanse of country that you see through the peep hole; merely look through it and let your aiming eye center itself and front sight on target.

Usually shotgun slugs pattern best when fired through a more open choke boring—like Improved Cylinder or Modified. However, sometimes Full Choke will give the best five-shot grouping. You have to experiment to find out. There is no danger of the slugs damaging the choke; the lead missiles are soft and easily swage down to true bore di-

ameter. However, a choke control muzzle attachment may be vulnerable if not in alignment with barrel. But instances are rare.

Skeet shooting demands a well balanced gun with short, 26-inch barrel made with special Skeet or similar open boring, or with a selective choke device on muzzle.

Stock dimensions—unlike those of trap guns—more closely approximate the stock measurements utilized by the upland gunner. Delivery of main shot charge, in relation to point of aim, usually has a lower center than loads fired from a relative straight-stocked trap gun.

Recoil pads are optional; some Skeet shooters claim they tend to catch on clothing when making quick shots called for on if the stock is the least bit too the Skeet range. . . . They do, long.

Most single purpose trap guns have 30-inch, Full Choke bored barrels, although many shooters successfully use a 28-inch barrel length. The gun of the serious trapshooter usually has a ventilated sighting rib and a rubber

recoil pad. Stocks are generally longer than those of upland guns—about 14½ inches; are fairly straight, and invariably have Monte Carlo style comb.

A raised rib is a sighting aid, but it must be adjusted to give proper line of sight and elevation. Owners of really fine guns generally entrust a rib-mounting job to the factory, or to Simmons Gun Specialties, Inc., of Kansas City, a firm that is famous for quality shotgun rib work.

For shooting comfort, I strongly recommend that a Pachmayr "White Line" rubber recoil pad be installed on every shotgun used for trap, upland game and for waterfowl. A pad is also advantageous to the Skeet shooter if he will take time to determine what is correct stock length, with pad installed. If it is necessary to cut a bit off the gunstock to maintain an already established length of pull, then do it.

Specific recommendation of a Pachmayr brand recoil pad is made because the neoprene rubber used by Pachmayr will never become soft with use nor harden with age. ●

## BOATING

(Continued from page 11)

catch you without the slightest warning, things like battery boxes, permanent fuel tanks and stern lockers should be installed in such a way as not to interfere with rapid, easy operation of the transom drain plug. When the spray is really flying into the cockpit or rain is splashing down like Niagara on a rampage, you as skipper do not want to leave the wheel . . . unless you're some kind of nut . . . and the drain plug should be easily accessible so any passenger can open it and perform this little chore.

THREE PROMINENT Florida boating enthusiasts have been named to the Sports Advisory Board at

Johnson Motors. The board, comprised of boatmen and boat women who have strived to focus public attention on fun as well as practicality of boating includes LaRue "Joker" Osborn of Cypress Gardens, Barbara Clack of Winter Haven, and Howard Weiler of Miami.

HAD QUITE A FEW comments (not favorable) on last month's article concerning our cruise across Florida. Seems I mentioned therein that the Oklawaha River is being used as part of the Cross-Florida Barge Canal, and I happened to state that not enough of it was going to be used to mar its beauty. Man the whole world collapsed around my head!

I received letters wanting to know where I got my informa-

tion, and that the canal was going to destroy this, that, and the other, and so I just "writ" back and said I got that little piece of information from the greatest source I know . . . me. It was merely a personal observation. There will be a great deal of the Oklawaha changed and perhaps for the worse by the canal, but in the long run, perhaps it'll help nature lovers . . . at least it'll be better for boating enthusiasts who would like to go across Florida via the canal.

I readily admit I am no expert on the pros or cons in regard to the Cross-Florida Barge Canal. In some ways I'm agin it and in some ways I'm fer it. Just can't say which way I lean right now, so I'm staying in the middle. How's that for straddlin'? ●



## FISHING

(Continued from page 7)

The best way to actually see how a rod bends is to simply press the tips on the floor or ground and watch the kind of a curve you get. That won't indicate stiffness very well unless you have two or more to compare.

Another way is to hook a weight to the tip and hold the grip horizontal to the floor. The amounts the tips sag are easily compared and the action is shown pretty well, too. Same method works with bait, fly or spinning rod.

In employing these methods, it is nice to know what you're looking for. A lot of rod wigglers, wavers and benders don't have the slightest idea.

Rod terminology is so confusing most of those using it aren't quite sure what they mean and now and then I hear a phrase that sends me to the showers but here are some attempts at definition.

"Lots of stuff" means a rod has a lot of backbone. The deceptive part of this is that a rod may bend easily for a little way and then stiffen up—or it may be stiff all the way. So backbone isn't as descriptive as it sounds.

"Dishrag rod" is one that's too soft or limp. If you want to be more colorful you can say "wet noodle."

"Soft" simply means the rod bends easily.

"Strong tip action" generally means something it sure doesn't say. Usually the speaker means the tip works a lot and the rest of the rod remains fairly stiff and doesn't bend much. If you want to get technical, a "strong tip" really would be hard to get moving at all.

"Fast tip" means that the tip would whip rapidly if bent and released but some folks who use the term mean that the tip is light and the rest of the rod is stiff. Actually, (and here I'd just as soon someone else took over) a soft tip could be made to appear



Dangling fishing lures can be a temptation to pets, especially puppies and kittens who are apt to get hooked when investigating.

fast if the rod stiffened abruptly just below it.

"Parabolic action" means the entire rod bends fairly evenly down to the butt. At one time it was associated with soft rods but that ain't necessarily so.

"Progressive taper" means that the rod becomes stiffer as you near the butt. There would be less and less bend as you approached your hand.

A "splined rod" generally means that the guides are attached with regard to the way the rod naturally bends.

I'd rather not hear any more about it.

THERE'S A snicker in the psychology of fishing where you can watch the fish.

An enthusiastic fisherman will cast all day in an area known to have plenty of bass and may not get a strike. Although he may have shown his lure to thousands of fish, he simply figures he hasn't hit just the right thing or may have made a mistake in technique or was in the wrong place anyhow. He's ready to go the next day.

But when you can see the fish turn down your offering, it's hard on morale. I've watched several bonefishermen give up in disgust when they've failed to interest a dozen fish in succession. The same thing has happened with school bass fishermen who are defeated when the fish keep coming up and by-passing their baits.

A fisherman doesn't mind failure; he just doesn't want to know how it happened.

IN MY experience, late spring is the best time for surface baits for panfish or bass. I won't say this is the time for the biggest fish but it's a good bet for "most" fish.

PETS SOMETIMES get into trouble with fishing lures. Some years ago I was the surgeon in a messy operation necessitated by carelessness.

I had come in from fishing and leaned my rod against a house trailer, leaving a plug attached. It had three treble hooks.

From inside the trailer I heard agonized yelping and came out to find a stray puppy had jumped up and grabbed the gaudy plug. There was nothing to do but go after him with pliers and pocket knife. Five minutes later, although I was feeling a bit queasy, the pup went back to his playing.

When I was a kid on the farm I leaned a cane pole against a tree without first removing some worm shreds from the hook. A white rock pullet went for the worm and managed to get the hook in her beak but was found and released before anything serious happened.

Herons or bitterns can be pathetic victims of bank lines and many fishermen have faced the unpleasant task of unhooking outraged seagulls. I accidentally caught a coot once but he couldn't peck very hard. I've heard of horned owls hopping on surface plugs at night or late evening and small birds sometimes catch panfish flies during the casting operation. ●



## DOGS—HUNTING

(Continued from page 9)

and gone. If the dog points and then discriminates between old and live scents and leaves the point of his own accord, he is considered to have corrected and will not be charged with an error.

**FORWARD PATTERN:** This describes the method of hunting and implies that the dog continues to hunt in front of his handler. When the trial course turns, the dog will bend and change his course of hunting in order to remain in front of the handler. Usually the handler will call to the dog to indicate a change in course, especially with a big running dog that may be out of sight at the change.

**MEAT DOG:** A meat dog may be an outstanding hunting dog but does not exhibit the style of a field trial dog. A dog may be slow but honest with his bird work and not have the high head, high tail style of a trial dog and be considered a good hunting or meat dog.

**STEADY:** A field trial dog or a good hunting dog should be steady to both wing and shot. To remain steady at wing the dog should not move when the birds are flushed. To remain steady at shot the dog should not move when the gun is fired or the birds are shot.

**GUNNER:** At some trials, live birds are shot for the dogs to retrieve. In some instances this shooting is done by a gunner other than the handler.

**HANDLER-GUNNER:** This is where the dog's handler does the shooting. The handler must locate and flush the birds and then make an honest effort to kill a bird. At times a handler-gunner is backed by another gunner.

**POTLICKER:** If a dog shows little enthusiasm for a hunt, displays a small and slow race with a lack of ambition and slow pot-



The handler of a dog at a field trial may, or may not, be the dog's owner. It is the individual who commands the dog during the field trial. This handler has two dogs on leash waiting for the time when his number is called to "cast" one of the dogs.

tering ways he may be referred to as a potlicker. A potlicker always belongs to somebody else.

**OPEN ALL-AGE:** This is the top stake of all field trials. It means that it is a stake that is open to any dog of the breed or breeds eligible to run and implies that top dogs will be competing. Such dogs are expected to handle and to be steady to wing and shot. In addition to good manners they must, of course, be good bird dogs and generally the bigger running dogs.

**SHOOTING DOG:** This stake implies that the dog must be a good bird dog but not required to run as big or as finished as an Open All-Age entry. They are expected to handle and run well on the more restricted courses generally used for such stakes. A good shooting dog should have class and style as well as display the highly desirable quality of good bird sense.

**DERBY:** The derby stake is a stake for potential All-Age dogs. Derby dogs are expected to run about as big as they ever will and handle well enough to show. They are expected to find birds and to

at least flash-point, though a derby dog may flush and chase the birds without too much discredit. It is to the credit of a derby if it is mannerly, though manners at the expense of restriction of range and sacrifice of style is to be discouraged. A good derby dog should show great potential for the future. The derby age limit is established by the breed club or the licensing body such as the American Kennel Club or the American Field.

**PUPPY:** A puppy stake is in many ways an early derby and is generally a display of running and future hunting possibilities. A puppy is not expected to handle birds but is generally expected to recognize game birds when found. Enthusiasm is the mark of a good puppy.

**FUTURITY:** The futurity stake involves breeding programs. Breeders who run their dogs in trials figure—or at least hope—that they can breed better prospects than the next breeder, and they back that faith by entering the progeny of a quality bitch at the time she is bred. They enter the litter when it is whelped,



making all the pups eligible. As the dogs develop they are kept eligible as individuals in accordance with a time schedule of the club sponsoring a futurity stake. Should the early entry be a potential winner at the time of the trial, they are entered with a final fee.

I will point out that the above is not a complete glossary of terms as applying to bird dog field trials and in some instances there might be some difference of opinion as to the proper interpretation.

### Moesgaards Dandy

The April issue of *FLORIDA WILDLIFE* reported on the All American Sporting Dog Award being presented to Moesgaards Dandy, a German Short-Haired Pointer owned by Dr. L. L. Kline of Orlando. News has come to our attention that Moesgaards Dandy who was a great German Shorthair National Champion, died on February 26, of bronchial pneumonia following a chest injury.

Moesgaards Dandy was one of the few dogs of any breed who was an outstanding champion in the field as well as a bench champion.

Dandy would have been eight years old on March 12. During his life as an active field trial contender, he accumulated a list of wins that would be the envy of any field dog. Dandy won the National German Pointing Dog Championship in 1962, was runner-up in the National German Shorthaired Championship the same year, won three Regional Championships and was runner-up four times in championship events. During his life, Dandy was credited with a total of seventy wins in different field events.

While Dandy may be gone he will not be forgotten as he was a very effective producer, having already sired 38 winners from various litters. ●

## RETIRE—AND FISH!

(Continued from page 15)

fishing clinics and schools. Most of them are poorly organized because they're really fairly new on the retirement scene but a fisherman intending to retire to Florida should make every effort to attend any of them he can reach. He may be bored stiff but he'll invariably learn something.

The need for this sort of thing is spotlighted in some of the housing developments where the staff is hard put to keep new retirees from going to seed in a strange place—no matter how gracefully the palms sway or the water ripples. The developers are seriously into the fishing school business and learning fast.

Not everyone retiring to Florida is young enough or healthy enough to do just any kind of fishing he wants to. Doctor's orders may seem to prohibit almost all angling but chances are there is some skillful fishing the person with limited physical capabilities can do.

Patients are too skimpy with the information they give their doctors. I know a heart patient who doesn't want to cast very much because his doctor told him not to but he turns around and yanks violently on a stubborn outboard motor because his doctor never said anything about that. He should know better.

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### NATURE NOTES

Moles caught above ground don't run. They dig underground and disappear almost immediately.

\* \* \*

The chipmunk sometimes stores as much as half a bushel of nuts and grain as food for the winter.

\* \* \*

The bullfrog is the only frog that exceeds four inches in size.

\* \* \*

Prairie dogs drink when showers leave puddles but between times do without water, like other dwellers of arid places.

So what's the easiest fishing?

Probably bridge and pier fishing with bait takes the least work. You can do it with a chair and you can be on shore quickly.

However, rowing a light boat is less taxing than rapid walking. Persons with health problems should be careful in handling and starting outboard motors. Carrying even light motors or attaching them to boats is not wise for semi-invalids. Electric starting motors certainly take little exertion but long range boating could become strenuous in case of a breakdown or bad weather and someone in such a party should be capable of manual effort.

I have frequent inquiries from persons who aren't able to do strenuous labor but can cast or troll. They're worried mainly about boat handling and trailer-ing.

Well, a carefully matched outboard boat and trailer can be launched with little effort and recovered almost as easily if the operator takes his time on the winch (which can be geared so low it's virtually no effort).

Elderly persons will be wise to keep their boats large enough that they can move around a little. Any boat of less than 12 feet gets pretty tiresome for an all day trip even for a youngster.

What kind of tackle?

Contrary to popular belief, there is little difference in the physical exertion of spin-casting, open reel spinning, plug casting or fly fishing once the skill is learned. Fly fishing is considerable labor at first and many beginners don't get past the hard work stage. The spin-casting or push button is easiest to learn but no less work than regular baitcasting once skill is acquired. I believe the open-faced spinning reel, although simple to learn, requires somewhat more physical effort than either plug casting or fly fishing. At least it does for me.

But some of it you gotta' do for yourself. ●



## CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 4)

Plains, heavy rains flooded most of the hardwood-timbered river bottoms. Large numbers of ducks moved into these flooded woodlands to feed on acorns and other foods.

Exceptionally low water in Laguna Madre along the Texas and Mexican coasts apparently caused a major decline in the number of scaup and redhead ducks normally seen in this area.

Wintering waterfowl habitat averaged from good to excellent over most of the Continent.

A total of 29,110,496 birds was tallied by the waterfowl observers. These included 18,314,857 puddle ducks such as mallards and pintails, 3,837,025 diving ducks which includes canvasback and scaup, and 2,987,732 geese. Also observed were 181,600

American brant, 165,770 black brant, 3,155,359 coots, 96,818 whistling swans, and 555 of the rare trumpeter swans.

In the Atlantic Flyway the observers saw 829,100 puddle ducks, 1,503,600 diving ducks, and 529,400 geese. This Flyway was the leader in numbers of diving ducks observed. The total number of waterfowl seen in the Atlantic Flyway was 3,510,700.

In the Mississippi Flyway 9,552,639 birds were tallied by the observers. Of this total 7,043,037 were puddle ducks and 739,159 were divers. The largest numbers of geese were observed in the Mississippi Flyway with 888,174 being counted.

Waterfowl observed in the Central Flyway, the Plains States west to the Continental Divide, plus the east coast and central highlands of Mexico totaled 6,282,400. There were 3,335,600 puddle ducks, 784,500 diving

ducks, and 714,800 geese observed in the Central Flyway.

The Pacific Flyway, which for survey purposes took in the west coast of Mexico, had the highest number of birds observed with a total of 9,764,757. This included 7,107,120 puddle ducks, 809,766 divers, and 855,358 geese.

Under the best of conditions the winter survey is not an accurate measurement of annual waterfowl population changes because of yearly differences in visibility conditions, a major shifting of populations from one habitat type to another, changes in observers, variations in weather and other factors. Experience has shown that the best information for setting annual waterfowl hunting regulations comes from a survey of waterfowl populations and production carried out each spring and summer on the Continent's major waterfowl breeding grounds. ●

## MAN AND BIRDS

(Continued from page 5)

In one instance a shearwater, a native of the island of Skokholm in Wales, was released at the Boston, Massachusetts airport and was back home in 12½ days, having flown 3,200 miles. Another shearwater was found in South Australia, a marked bird, having flown some 12,000 miles. Seemingly the arctic tern is one of the most noteworthy migrants, flying from the frozen reaches of North America to the Antarctic and back, a round trip of 24,000 miles.

Birds have also changed their habits and habitat for various reasons. Some species have found civilization more to their liking than pure stands of timber or virgin prairies. They have followed the new forest clearing, farms and villages. Some wilderness species disappear, while others adjust. The pinnated grouse (prairie chicken) increased in

population with the advance of pioneer farming, but declined with the destruction of the prairies and the onslaught of intensive farming. Market hunting did not improve their security.

THE WORLD OF BIRDS takes one through the history of banding, describes the nesting habits of many birds, the identification of eggs, and gives the story of sanctuaries. It tells how to become a bird watcher and a bird photographer.

One of the last areas of study has been the sea and ocean birds. These species have been receiving rather intensive study of late, and navy men of the different nations have been enlisted to make bird studies. Much of this research fits into ocean navigation.

After all things having to do with birdlife have been documented, there is a reminder that man is the most dangerous and lethal animal on the face of the earth. When there were only scanty populations of primitive men with crude weapons, birds

could hold their own. Even then some very cruel methods were employed which have persisted into what is now called an enlightened civilization.

Added to killing, his civilization has reduced habitat and now chemical poisons contribute to the death toll. Man now has the know-how to kill all living things including himself. It may take some time but he could finally get around to that task.

This book could well be used by teachers through the grades and into high school, to trace the evolution of nature and man. It so dramatically tells of the viciousness of man and the urgency of man assuming new responsibilities for all resources.

It is a book which grandpa could use to teach the grandchildren a broadening interest in the wonders of the great out-of-doors. Children should know much more about the part they play in the realm of nature before they take off for the moon. ●





## FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Only fishing citation applications received within 90 days from date of catch will be honored.

### APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Species \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Tackle \_\_\_\_\_

Bait or Lure Used \_\_\_\_\_

Where Caught \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ County

Date Caught \_\_\_\_\_ Catch Witnessed By \_\_\_\_\_

Registered, Weighed By \_\_\_\_\_ At \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Applicant)

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

#### LARGEMOUTH BASS

\_\_\_\_\_ 8 pounds or larger

#### CHAIN PICKEREL

\_\_\_\_\_ 4 pounds or larger

#### BLUEGILL (BREAM)

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 1/2 pounds or larger

#### SHELLCRACKER

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 pounds or larger

#### BLACK CRAPPIE

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 pounds or larger

#### RED BREAST

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK









Two out—two to go! Rare black swans help boost wildlife population at Homosassa Springs, Florida.

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